**AP ENGLISH IV SYLLABUS**

**2015-2016**

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ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS:

* Why study literature?
* Are we what we read?
* How can reading unify us?
* What can we learn about ourselves through reading?
* How can we be effective communicators?

COURSE DESCRIPTION

AP English IV provides a stimulating college-level class for students with high ability in literary analysis and composition. The course prepares students to take the AP Literature and Composition Exam in May as well as builds skills for success in college English courses.

PHILOSOPHY

The study of literature and the writing about literature are essential because through the reading of literature we gain self-knowledge and insight into the human condition, we discover our commonality with people of other cultures and other times, and we learn to appreciate the beauty of the language which is ours. Through writing and oral discussion, we force ourselves to know what we think and to structure and support those thoughts so that we can communicate with others.

COURSE OF STUDY

 In addition to studying novels (see texts below), short stories, and poetry related to these themes, students will:

1. Analyze style in works of fiction, drama, and poetry
2. Learn and apply academic vocabulary to works of fiction, drama, and poetry
3. Practice and analyze Advanced Placement multiple choice questions
4. Write AP timed essays
5. Compare and contrast works of fiction, drama, and poetry
6. Learn and apply Modern Language Association guidelines for research regarding documentation, citation, and format
7. Understand the development of literature over time

TEXTS

*Perrine’s Literature: Structure, Sound & Sense*, Thomas R. Arp and Greg Johnson, eds., Wadsworth Cengage Learning.

Students are encouraged to buy their own electronic or paperback copies of the novels we will study, including various novels and plays of literary merit used on the AP Literature and Composition such as:

 *Of Mice and Men by* John Steinbeck (summer reading)

 Student choice short novel (summer reading)

Student choice Victorian novel

 *Hamlet*, William Shakespeare (also in the anthology *Literature*)

 Student choice modern novels

 Short stories

GRADING POLICY

1. **Major Grades** (exams, essays, projects) are worth **70%** of the total average and will be completed according to the due dates in the nine weeks’ calendars.
2. **Daily Grades** (classwork such as discussion reflections, reading responses, homework, quizzes) are worth **20%** of total average.
3. **Class Participation** assignments (self-assessments, independent class reading, APMC quiz corrections) are worth **10%** of total average.

All assignments should be typed or written neatly and legibly in blue or black ink and include a proper MLA heading with the student’s name, teacher’s name, course name, and date placed in the upper left-hand corner of all assignments. **A title** for each major and daily assignment should be placed on the top line of the paper.

DUE DATES

* Students will have ample time to prepare for reading and writing assignments. An assignment not turned in on time will be recorded as a 0 in the grade book until the assignment is submitted. It is the student's responsibility to correspond with the teacher at least 24 hours in advance if an assignment cannot be submitted on time due to *extenuating circumstances.*
* No late work will be accepted the last week of each grading period.
* ***Any zeroes in the gradebook will be converted to an INCOMPLETE for that grading period.***
* Technology issues must be solved before assignments are due and will not be excuses for work to be submitted late. Your teacher will not print out your assignments for you.

CLASSROOM GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES

This is a college-level class, and we expect students to conduct themselves in a manner appropriate to the best universities. As discussion is such an important aspect of an honors class, careful listening, mutual respect, and extreme courtesy are essential so that all class members feel comfortable participating.

All rules and policies in the Student Handbook and the Student Code of Conduct will apply.

Students not in the classroom by the time class begins are considered tardy.

Students will arrange locker and restroom breaks between classes so that they enter ready for class.

The teacher will determine what technology is permitted during class.